

## **LISTERIOSIS**

Listeriosis is a bacterial disease usually manifested as meningoen­cephalitis and/or septicemia in newborns and adults and as abortion in pregnant women. Onset of meningoen­cephalitis may be subacute but is usually sudden and accompanied by fever, intense headache, nausea, and vomiting. The immunocompetent host who acquires infection may exhibit only an acute, mild, febrile illness, sometimes with influenza-like symptoms. Sporadic cases and occasional epidemics result from foodborne transmission, raw or contaminated milk, soft cheeses, vegetables, and ready to eat meats like pat .

### **Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:**

- Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).
- Microscopic examination of CSF or meconium permits presumptive diagnosis.

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

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### **Epidemiology**

Kentucky 2002	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000
Cases      4	0.1	0.22

The cases were from Purchase, Fivco, and Lake Cumberland Districts. Three of the cases were in females.

The ages ranged from 13 days of age to 77 years of age and one case resulted in death.